



## GALLATIN COUNTY

311 West Main, Rm. 306 • Bozeman, MT 59715

SENATE JUDICIARY

EXHIBIT NO. 3

DATE 1/16/09

FILE NO. SB 191

County Commission

William A. Murdock

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Steve White

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January 14, 2009

Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: SB 191; Court Security Fund

Please accept this request for your support of SB 191. As Montana's counties continue to experience growth, the need for increased security in our criminal justice system grows exponentially. The safety of our judges, other justice personnel, as well as court participants must be of first and foremost priority. Without adequately trained staff and security equipment, counties cannot ensure the safety of all those involved. The limited resources of local government have seriously inhibited the ability to provide adequate and timely court security.

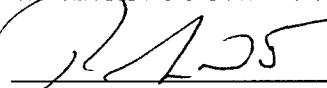
We feel that it is important that the responsibility for funding court security should, in part, be placed on those creating the potential threat to the judicial system and those participating in it. The only way to do this fairly is to charge a fee to those receiving misdemeanor and felony convictions as well as those filing certain civil matters with the court. That fee can then be placed in a fund specifically for court security.

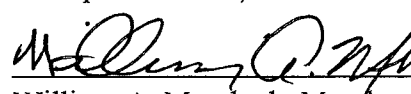
The Montana Association of Counties approved this legislation as a high priority as well and we appreciate their support.

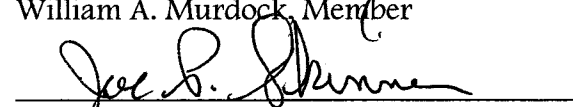
Please consider this legislation and those in your constituency; your friends, family, neighbors, and even yourselves who may find yourselves the recipients of this protection someday, and vote in favor of SB 191.

Sincerely,

GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSION

  
R. Stephen White, Chair

  
William A. Murdock, Member

  
Joe P. Skinner, Member